

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

( ISO ) W

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R 261644Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8423

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PDEV, UK

SUBJ: DEVOLUTION: POLICY UNIT CHANGED

REF: LONDON 955

1. GOVERNMENT JANUARY 23 ANNOUNCED CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP OF DEVOLUTION POLICY UNIT WHICH REPORTS TO LEADER OF HOUSE OF COMMONS EDWARD SHORT AND HAS BEEN UNDER DIRECTION OF GERALD FOWLER, MINISTER IN PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE. LORD CROWTHER-HUNT, MINISTER, EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, HAS BEEN NAMED TO REPLACE FOWLER. CROWTHER-HUNT IS NOTED CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND WELL VERSED IN PROBLEMS OF DEVOLUTION, HAVING SERVED AS MEMBER OF KILBRANDON COMMISSION WHICH FIRST STUDIED ISSUE.

2. COMMENT: REPLACEMENT OF FOWLER APPEARS TO FORESHADOW CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT'S DEVOLUTION POLICY AND STRATEGY WHICH ENCOUNTERED HEAVY GOING IN RECENT COMMONS DEBATE (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO FORECAST JUST WHAT CHANGES WILL EVENTUATE, CROWTHER-HUNT IS KNOWN TO FAVOR DEVOLUTION. CHANGE, HOWEVER, HAS DRAWN SOME CRITICISM FROM LABOR BACKBENCHES ON GROUNDS THAT LEADER OF DEVOLUTION UNIT IS PEER AND THEREFORE WILL BE UNABLE TO DEFEND

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TION UNIT IS PEER AND THEREFORE WILL BE UNABLE TO DEFEND

GOVERNMENT POLICY IN COMMONS. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK  
GOVERNMENT WILL TILT TOWARD FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO MAXI-  
MAL DEVOLUTIONIST POSITION FOR SCOTLAND AND MAY INTRODUCE  
SEPARATE LEGISLATION FOR SCOTLAND AND WALES. LATTER  
STRATEGY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT'S  
POSITION IN COMMONS, AS MANY WELSH AND SOME ENGLISH MPS  
ON BOTH SIDES OF HOUSE ARE PREPARED TO CONCEDE DEVOLVED  
POWERS TO SCOTLAND, BUT HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT  
WALES.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, REORGANIZATIONS, LOWER HOUSE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LONDON01249  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760029-0851  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LONDON 955  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEVOLUTION: POLICY UNIT CHANGED  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, PDEV, UK, (FOWLER, GERALD), (SHORT, WDWARD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006